

Remarks:

After receiving the Notice of Allowance in the present patent application but before paying the Issue Fee, Applicants became aware of several prior patents which may be relevant to the subject matter of the invention claimed in the present patent application. Accordingly, Applicants have filed concurrently herewith a Request for Continuing Examination under 37 CFR 1.14 in order to submit these patents in an Information Disclosure Statement, which is also being filed concurrently herewith.

Applicants believe that Claims 1-4 are patentable at this time. These claims remain pending following submission of this Statement Accompanying Information Disclosure Statement, and are in condition for allowance at this time. As such, Applicants respectfully request entry of the Request for Continued Examination, review of the references submitted in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement, and consideration of this Statement Accompanying Information Disclosure Statement, followed by reconsideration of the application, with an early and favorable decision being solicited. Should the Examiner believe that the prosecution of the application could be expedited, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted:

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